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ABSTRACT

Much of history is interpreted from an adult point of view. But in Karen Hesse's Newbery Award-winning "Out of the Dust," the Great Depression's Dust Bowl is seen through the eyes of a child. By using the novel, this lesson plan gives students the opportunity to identify with the personal experiences of youth in the 1930s. In addition, students examine primary source materials of the period to correlate the fictional text with actual visual, auditory, and manuscript accounts as found in the American Memory collections. The lesson plan: cites educational objectives; notes time required and recommended grade level; discusses curriculum fit; and lists resources used and materials needed. It next provides a detailed three-step procedure for classroom implementation of the lesson and addresses evaluation and extension. Contains information and photographs about the Dust Bowl. The lesson plan's student study guide first provides an overview of the lesson and cites student learning objectives. It points out how to implement the lesson by reading the book and looking at images of the Great Depression. It provides a guided reading journal and tips for searching in the American Memory collections. (NKA)

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The Learning Page... lesson plans

Visions In the Dust: A Child's Perspective of the Dust Bowl.

By

Jan King and Rena Nisbet

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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CS 511 421

Visions In the Dust:

A Child's Perspective of the Dust Bowl

Jan King and Rena Nisbet

Much of history is interpreted from an adult point of view. This unit helps students gain an understanding of Dust Bowl history through the eyes of a child. Using Karen Hesse's Newbery Award-winning *Out of the Dust* as an introduction to this aspect of the Great Depression, students have the opportunity to identify with the personal experiences of youth in the 1930s. In addition, students examine primary source materials of the period to correlate the fictional text with actual visual, auditory, and manuscript accounts as found in the American Memory collections.

Objectives

At the conclusion of this unit, students will be able to:

- examine primary source materials to gain knowledge of the Dust Bowl;
- use historical fiction to understand the human aspect of the Dust Bowl experience;
- relate primary source materials from American Memory collections to passages, characters, and events from the novel;
- develop research skills and strategies, such as keyword searches, for finding information.

Time Required

5 – 7 class periods

Recommended Grade Level

Grades 6 – 8; may be adapted for upper elementary students

Curriculum Fit

American history, language arts or an integrated American studies unit

Resources Used

American Memory collections:

- *America From the Great Depression to World War II: Black-and-White Photographs From the FSA and OWI.*
- *Voices From the Dust Bowl: The Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin Migrant Worker Collection.*

The American Experience: Surviving the Dust Bowl. Washington, D.C.:PBS Online by WGBH, 1998. http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/dustbowl, accessed May 31, 2000.

Print Sources

- Farrell, Jacqueline. *The Great Depression.* San Diego: Lucent Books, 1996.
- Fremon, David K. *The Great Depression in American History.* Berkeley Heights: Enslow Pub., 1997.

- Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. New York: Scholastic Press, 1997.
- Sherrow, Victoria. *Hardship and Hope: America and the Great Depression*. LaVergne: Ingram Pub., 1995.
- Stanley, Jerry. *Children of the Dust Bowl*. LaVergne: Ingram Pub., 1992.
- Stein, R. Conrad. The Great Depression, Cornerstones of Freedom (A Series). Chicago: Children's Press, 1993.

Materials and Preparation

- Study Guide
- Images of the Great Depression
- Guided Reading Journal

Procedure

Step One: Accessing Prior Knowledge, Initial Reaction (1 class period)

1. As an introductory activity, use Images of the Great Depression and present students with these three images from America from the Great Depression to World War II: Black-and-White Photographs from the FSA and OWI, ca. 1935-1945:

    - Farm house: Dust piled up around farmhouse. Oklahoma.
    - Farmer's Son: Dust is too much for this farmer's son in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.
    - Topsoil: Stock watering hole almost completely covered by shifting topsoil. Cimarron County, Oklahoma.

2. Using Images of the Great Depression, ask students for:

    - their personal reactions to photographs;
    - knowledge gained from viewing photographs; and
    - questions to be answered during this unit.

Step Two: History Through Fiction (2-3 class periods)

1. Students read *Out of the Dust*, noting Billy Jo's experiences in the Dust Bowl.

2. Using the Guided Reading Journal, students keep a guided journal noting specific passages relating to:
    - school life
    - community life
    - family life
    - government assistance
    - agriculture

3. After reading the novel, as a group examine the cover of *Out of the Dust*, noting the photograph of Lucille Burroughs. She was used to visually depict Hesse's character, Billy Jo. Using the same photoanalysis technique in Step One, discuss with students the possible origins of the photograph. Why was this photograph used? After a brainstorming session, students can review the original image of Lucille Burroughs with its bibliographic record found in America from the Great Depression to World War II: Black-and-White Photographs from the FSA and OWI, ca. 1935-1945.

Step Three: Depicting the Text (3-4 class periods)

1. Using their Guided Reading Journal, students generate keywords and concepts for searching America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA and OWI, ca. 1935-1945 collection for images that portray sections of free verse found in Hesse's *Out of the Dust*. Students locate photographs that represent

meaningful passages from the novel.

2. After image selection, students compile a presentation (poster, collage, scrapbook, multimedia presentation, etc.) to be shared with others. The presentation should include the picture with the accompanying passage from the text.

Evaluation & Extension

Student assessment is determined by teacher and peer evaluations based on how closely student-selected images depict text selected in the student's Guided Reading Journal.

- Students use Voices from the Dust Bowl: the Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin Migrant Worker Collection, 1940-1941 to look for songs that Billy Jo may have played on her piano or that Mad Dog Craddock and the Black Mesa Boys may have sung. (2-3 days)

- Students use American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project, 1936-1940 to compare the experiences of Billy Jo and her family to those in other parts of the nation during the Great Depression. (2-3 days)

- This lesson lends itself for use with other works of historical fiction teamed with other collections within American Memory.

- Classes could also read Christopher Paul Curtis' *Bud, Not Buddy* to learn a Michigan child's perspective of the Great Depression and compare it to *Out of the Dust*.

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http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html

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Historical Collections for the National Digital Library

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Learning Page

Teaching and learning with American Memory

Today in History
August 23

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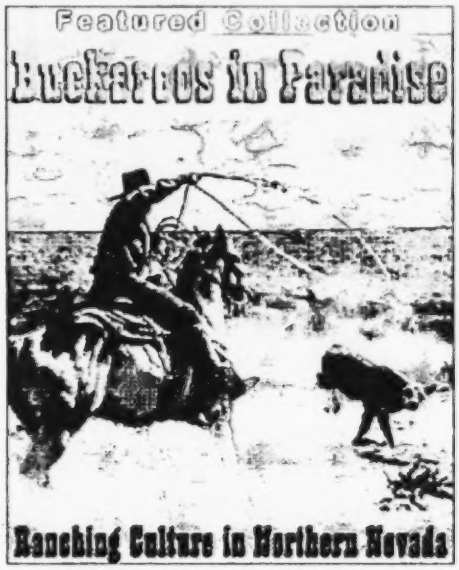
Technical Information

Future Collections

American Memory is a gateway to rich primary source materials relating to the history and culture of the United States. The site offers more than **7 million digital items** from more than 100 historical collections.

Search example of the day: Garden of the Gods



International Horizons
Digital Collections from around the world

America's Library
For kids and families, featuring content from American Memory and other Library of Congress sites

Sponsors
See who is helping to bring a virtual library to all Americans for the 21st century

LC/Ameritech Competition
Unique content from other institutions has been added to American Memory through this competition, which ran from 1997-1999.

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Aug-20-02

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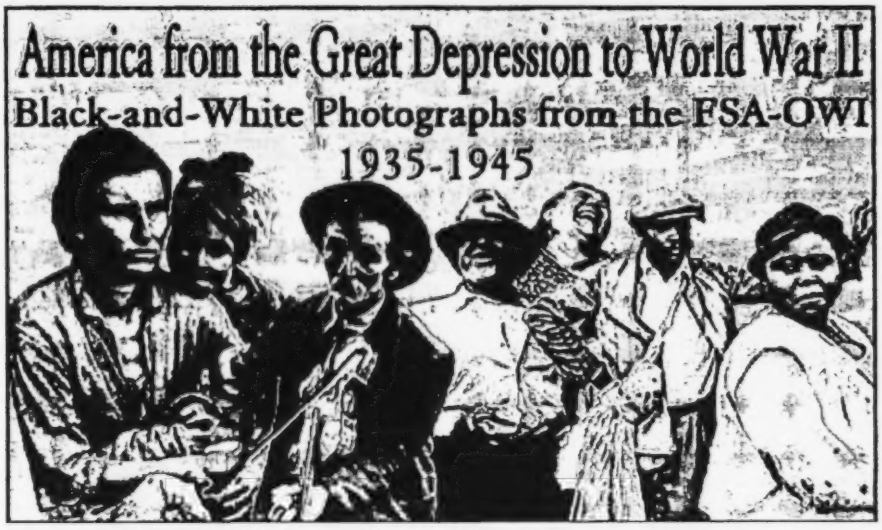

Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress

Search Keywords for Black-and-White Photos
Browse the Subject Index | Creator Index | Geographic Location Index

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FSA-OWI Color Photos Home Page
Search Combined Color and Black-and-White Photos

The black-and-white photographs of the Farm Security Administration-Office of War Information Collection are a landmark in the history of documentary photography. The images show Americans at home, at work, and at play, with an emphasis on rural and small-town life and the adverse effects of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and increasing farm mechanization. Some of the most famous images portray people who were displaced from farms and migrated West or to industrial cities in search of work. In its latter years, the project documented America's mobilization for World War II. The collection includes about 164,000 black-and-white negatives; this release provides access to over 160,000 of these images. The FSA-OWI photographers also produced about 1600 color photographs. Two illustrated lists of frequently requested images from the FSA-OWI Collection, "'Migrant Mother' Photographs" and "Photographs of Signs Enforcing Racial Discrimination", are also available from the Prints and Photographs Reading Room.

The mission of the Library of Congress is to make its resources available and useful to Congress and the American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations. The goal of the Library's National Digital Library Program is to offer broad public access to a wide range of historical and cultural documents as a contribution to education and lifelong learning.

The Library of Congress presents these documents as part of the record of the past. These primary historical documents reflect the attitudes, perspectives, and beliefs of different times. The Library of Congress does not endorse the views expressed in these collections, which may contain materials offensive to some readers.

Special Presentations

Documenting America: Photographers on Assignment

Selected FSA Images: Popular Requests and Staff Selections

Portrait Sampler of FSA Photographers

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American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

Search by Keywords | **Browse by** Song Text | Audio Titles | Photographs | Performers/Interviewees

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Voices from the Dust Bowl: The Charles L. Todd and Robert Sonkin Migrant Worker Collection is an online presentation of a multi-format ethnographic field collection documenting the everyday life of residents of Farm Security Administration (FSA) migrant work camps in central California in 1940 and 1941. This collection consists of audio recordings, photographs, manuscript materials, publications, and ephemera generated during two separate documentation trips supported by the Archive of American Folk Song (now the Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center).

Todd and Sonkin, both of the City College of New York (currently the City College of the City University of New York), took disc recording equipment supplied by the Archive of American Folk Song to Arvin, Bakersfield, El Rio, Firebaugh, Porterville, Shafter, Thornton, Visalia, Westley, and Yuba City, California. In these locales, they documented dance tunes, cowboy songs, traditional ballads, square dance and play party calls, camp council meetings, camp court proceedings, conversations, storytelling sessions, and personal experience narratives of the Dust Bowl refugees who inhabited the camps.

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Audio, Images, and Text

How to Order Audio and Photographic Reproductions

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Visions In the Dust

Student Study Guide

We are beginning our study of the Great Depression of the 1930s. For this unit, we will be combining literature with the resources of the Library of Congress. As we embark upon this venture, we will be looking at this aspect of history from a young person's perspective. At the conclusion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Use primary source materials to gain knowledge of the Dust Bowl;
- Use historical fiction to understand the human aspect of the Dust Bowl experience;
- Relate primary source materials from American Memory collections to passages, characters, and events from the novel; and
- Develop research skills and strategies, such as keyword searches, for finding information.

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1. Begin by looking at Images of the Great Depression for our introductory activity.

2. Following this exercise, read Karen Hesse's Newbery Award-winning novel, *Out of the Dust*. Use the Guided Reading Journal as you read; this will aid you in documenting meaningful passages.

3. Your next step will be to explore the resources of the American Memory collections. For this project, concentrate your search in *America From the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs From the FSA and OWI*.

4. Use keywords and concepts from your Guided Reading Journal to find images representing meaningful passages you have recorded.

5. Using the images you have selected, compile a presentation (poster, collage, scrapbook, multimedia presentation, etc.) to share with others. The presentation should include the picture with the accompanying passage from the book.

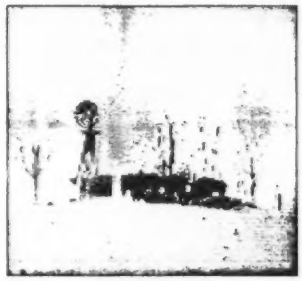
Visions In the Dust

Images of the Great Depression

Study these images, then answer the following questions.

Farmhouse

Farmer's Son



Topsoil

1. Speculate as to when and where these photographs may have been taken.

2. Which image "speaks" to you and why?

3. If every picture tells a story, what story do these photographs convey?

4. What questions do these images evoke?

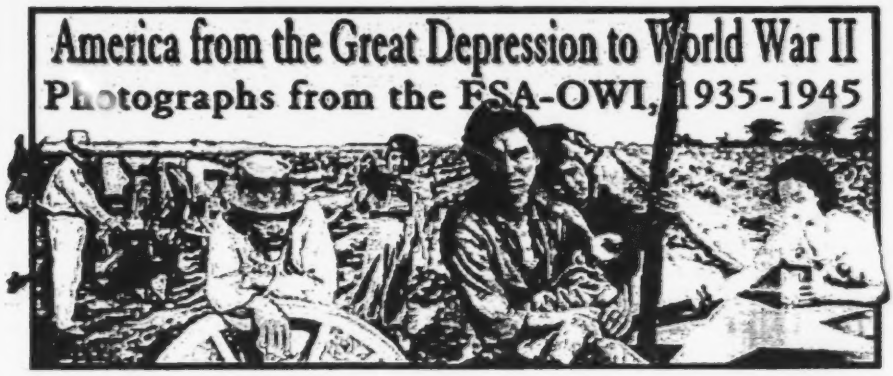
Visions In the Dust

Guided Reading Journal

As you read *Out of the Dust*, use this page to document significant passages in each of the following areas that reflect the Dust Bowl experience from a young person's point of view. Quote the passages you select, giving the page number.

If you have other passages from *Out of the Dust* that you feel are significant, feel free to list them on the back!

Categories:	Page #	Passage
School life		
Community life		
Family life		
Agriculture		
Landscape		
Assistance from others		



Black & White Photos
Over 160,000 photographs currently available

Color Photos
1600 total photographs

Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress

The images in the Farm Security Administration-Office of War Information Collection are among the most famous documentary photographs ever produced. Created by a group of U.S. government photographers, the images show Americans in every part of the nation. In the early years, the project emphasized rural life and the negative impact of the Great Depression, farm mechanization, and the Dust Bowl. In later years, the photographers turned their attention to the mobilization effort for World War II. The core of the collection consists of about 164,000 black-and-white photographs. This release provides access to over 160,000 of these images; future additions will expand the black-and-white offering. The FSA-OWI photographers also produced about 1600 color photographs during the latter days of the project.

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America from the Great Depression to World War II: Black-and-White Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945

Click on picture for larger image, full item, or more versions. [Rights and Reproductions]

Display Images with Neighboring Call Numbers

Dust piled up around farmhouse. Oklahoma.

Rothstein, Arthur, 1915- photographer.

CREATED/PUBLISHED
1936 Apr.

NOTES
Title and other information from caption card.

Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944.

SUBJECTS
Dust storms--Oklahoma
Nitrate negatives.
United States--Oklahoma

MEDIUM
1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

CALL NUMBER
LC-USF34- 004088-E

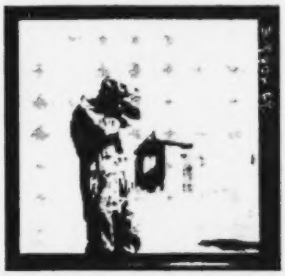
REPRODUCTION NUMBER
LC-USF34-004088-E DLC (b&w film neg.)
LC-USZ62-131313 DLC (b&w film copy neg. from print)

COLLECTION
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection

REPOSITORY
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA

America from the Great Depression to World War II: Black-and-White Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945

Click on picture for larger image, full item, or more versions. [Rights and Reproductions]



Display Images with Neighboring Call Numbers

Dust is too much for this farmer's son in Cimarron County, Oklahoma.

Rothstein, Arthur, 1915- photographer.

CREATED/PUBLISHED
1936 Apr.

NOTES
Title and other information from caption card.

Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944.

SUBJECTS
Dust storms--Oklahoma
Nitrate negatives.
United States--Oklahoma--Cimarron County.

MEDIUM
1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

CALL NUMBER
LC-USF34- 004047-E

REPRODUCTION NUMBER
LC-USF34-004047-E DLC (b&w film neg.)

COLLECTION
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection

REPOSITORY
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA

DIGITAL ID

America from the Great Depression to World War II: Black-and-White Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945

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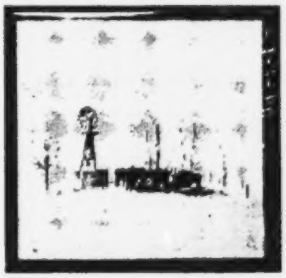

Display Images with Neighboring Call Numbers

Stock watering hole almost completely covered by shifting topsoil. Cimarron County, Oklahoma.

Rothstein, Arthur, 1915- photographer.

CREATED/PUBLISHED
1936 Apr.

NOTES
Title and other information from caption card.

Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944.

SUBJECTS
Dust storms--Oklahoma
Nitrate negatives.
United States--Oklahoma--Cimarron County.

MEDIUM
1 negative : nitrate ; 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches or smaller.

CALL NUMBER
LC-USF34- 004048-E

REPRODUCTION NUMBER
LC-USF34-004048-E DLC (b&w film neg.)
LC-USZ62-129097 DLC (b&w film copy neg. from file print)

COLLECTION
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection

REPOSITORY
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA

Click on picture for larger image, full item, or more versions. [Rights and Reproductions]

Display Images with Neighboring Call Numbers

Lucille Burroughs, daughter of a cotton sharecropper. Hale County, Alabama.

Evans, Walker, 1903-1975, photographer.

CREATED/PUBLISHED
[1935 or 1936]

NOTES
Title and other information from caption card.

Transfer; United States. Office of War Information. Overseas Picture Division. Washington Division; 1944.

SUBJECTS
Floyd Burroughs--Alabama
Nitrate negatives.
United States--Alabama--Hale County.

MEDIUM
1 negative : nitrate ; 8 x 10 inches or smaller.

CALL NUMBER
LC-USF342- 008140-A

REPRODUCTION NUMBER
LC-USF342-T01-008140-A DLC (b&w film dup. neg.)

COLLECTION
Farm Security Administration - Office of War Information Photograph Collection

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DIGITAL ID
(intermediary roll film) **fsa 8c52249**

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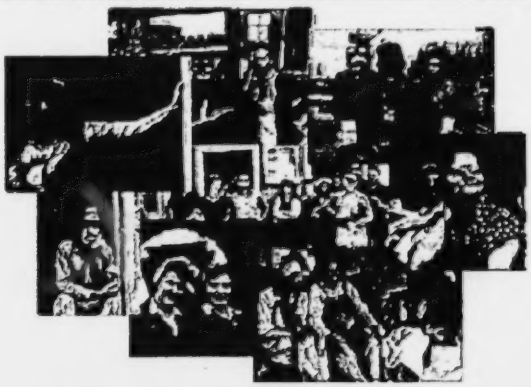
American Life Histories
Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Search by Keywords | **Select** a state

These life histories were written by the staff of the Folklore Project of the Federal Writers' Project for the U.S. Works Progress (later Work Projects) Administration (WPA) from 1936-1940. The Library of Congress collection includes 2,900 documents representing the work of over 300 writers from 24 states. Typically 2,000-15,000 words in length, the documents consist of drafts and revisions, varying in form from narrative to dialogue to report to case history. The histories describe the informant's family education, income, occupation, political views, religion and mores, medical needs, diet and miscellaneous observations. Pseudonyms are often substituted for individuals and places named in the narrative texts.

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Special Presentation:
Voices from the Thirties: An Introduction to the WPA Life Histories Collection

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